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Articles in Today's Clips

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State senate responds to 9-year-old Montcalm County boy's death

Posted by [llupo](#) September 17, 2008 02:51AM



Nicholas Braman

LANSING — The Michigan Senate on Tuesday voted to require better communication between the state and local court agencies in child abuse cases, a response to the death of a 9-year-old boy who was killed by his father.

State officials have said they didn't do enough to protect Nicholas Braman. He died last October in Montcalm County's Douglass Township northeast of Grand Rapids when his father used a combination of an over-the-counter pain medication and carbon monoxide gas to kill his new wife, the boy and himself.

State caseworkers had intervened to protect the boy's older siblings from abuse inflicted by their father, Oliver Braman. But Nicholas continued living with his dad after the boy and his brothers said he hadn't been mistreated. Oliver Braman was facing jail at the time of the deaths.

The four bill package would require:

- Michigan Department of Human Services to collaborate with local Friend of the Court offices on cases where a child is the subject of a protective services investigation and is involved in a custody or parenting time case.
- Friend of the Court employees to report child abuse and neglect to DHS. The Friend of the Court is the enforcement arm for circuit courts and handles child support, spousal support and parental custody issues.
- DHS to create a checklist for statewide use in abuse and neglect investigations.

"This deals with the mechanics of how we go about protecting vulnerable children," said Sen. Roger Kahn, R-Saginaw, who credited the state for recognizing that mistakes were made and suggesting changes.

The boy's mother, Becki Jasinski of Saginaw County, testified before a Senate committee members in April about how he loved cars and planes and liked to twist his fingers in her hair when she walked to communion at church.

DHS officials have said caseworkers, the child's lawyer guardian ad-litem, parenting instructors and a therapist all reported that Oliver Braman appeared to be taking positive steps to ensure a safe home for his son. They also said he had appeared to accept responsibility for his actions and was responding well to intervention.

But Jasinski said the state should have known that an abuser is most dangerous when he's about to lose control of his family. She also criticized the legal system for letting Braman have custody of their children in the first place.

The bills were sponsored by Kahn and GOP Sens. Bill Hardiman of Kentwood, Alan Cropsey of DeWitt and Mark Jansen of [Kent County's](#) Gaines Township. The legislation next heads to the House.

Categories: [State News](#)



Prosecutor Sets Press Conference Regarding Toddler Death

9/16/08 - Livingston County Prosecutor David Morse will hold a press conference tomorrow regarding the July death of a Green Oak Township toddler left inside a pickup truck for more than two hours. The police investigation into the death of 18 month old Alyssa Stouffer on a near 90 degree day was completed late last month. Stouffer was found July 17th by her mother after she had returned from work. The girl's father had taken the toddler on a trip earlier in the afternoon, but had left her inside the truck with the windows rolled up and vehicle turned off while he went inside their house. An autopsy indicated the girl died of hyperthermia, or extreme overheating, while strapped into a car seat. Prosecutor David Morse has met with the Michigan Department of Human Services, which also is investigating the death, to decide whether or not charges will be filed in the case. The press conference is set for tomorrow afternoon at 1:30. (LS/JK)

Night and Day: Bay area events

Posted by [The Bay City Times](#) September 17, 2008 08:49AM

THURSDAY Sept. 18

REGISTER TO VOTE, practice casting a ballot and learn all about the aspects of voting during a Bay County Voter Registration Fair from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Bay County Department of Human Services, 1399 W. Center Road, Hampton Township. Info: www.michigan.gov/dhs.



September 17, 2008

DMC shortchanges WSU doctors, consultant says

Medicaid payments are at heart of payment dispute

By *PATRICIA ANSTETT*
FREE PRESS MEDICAL WRITER

Wayne State University physicians are underpaid by their partner, the Detroit Medical Center, a consultant to the medical school says.

The report from HealthCare Appraisers, Inc. of Delray Beach, Fla., is the latest development in a seven-month dispute between the two clinical partners over Medicaid payments to WSU physicians who care for poor DMC patients.

DMC began withholding \$1 million a month in February after its own consultant, Foley & Lardner, a Detroit law firm, concluded that additional Medicaid reimbursement paid by the state of Michigan to WSU doctors raised their salaries above what is considered the fair market value of their care.

WSU has sought an investigation of the issue by the federal Office of Inspector General, an inquiry that could take a year or more to resolve.

Ben Carter, DMC chief operating officer, today called the HealthCare Appraisers report "a good first step" toward resolution of the dispute. "As we said all along, it's the OIG whose opinion really matters.... It keeps our discussions moving along."

WSU declined comment, beyond releasing an executive summary of the HealthCare Appraisers report to the Detroit Free Press.

DMC this summer agreed to pay WSU \$2.7 million for some of the care.

Negotiations continue to resolve other differences that jeopardize residency training programs for WSU doctors.

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